

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for allowing the claims in the present application and for mailing the formal Notice of Allowance on October 26, 2005.

By this submission, Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended. Claims 11 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 20-26 have been added. Hence, Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 20-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to further clarify features already existing in the claims that were allowed in the Notice of Allowance of October 26, 2005. New Claims 20-26 depend from independent Claim 12, and thus include each and every feature of Claim 12. Thus, new Claims 20-26 are allowable for at least the reasons for which Claim 12 has been allowed. All claims pending in the present application are therefore in condition for allowance. For this reason, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firms check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of

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this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



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Dated: January 25, 2006

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